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Mycogenic silver nanoparticles mediated control of Curvularia lunata

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The aim of this study was to perform mycogenic synthesis of silver nanoparticles containing the potential to inhibit the growth of plant pathogenic fungi Curvularia lunata which causes Black kernel Disease to the Rice crop. During the study, 20 soil fungi were isolated on potato dextrose agar from 4 different soil samples collected from agriculture land in Phagwara, Punjab. Among the twenty fungal isolates, 3 fungal isolates synthesized AgNPs while only one of them exhibited antagonistic activity towards C. lunata. Confirmation of silver nanoparticles formation was performed by using UV-Visible spectroscopy, X- ray diffraction spectroscopy (XRD) and Fourier Transform Infrared (FT-IR) spectroscopy. Transmission electron microscopic images of mycogenic silver nanoparticles suggested that these particles were spherical in shape while particle size was ranging between 3-8nm. Further, biologically synthesized AgNPs were found to be non-toxic towards rice (Oryza sativa) seeds in germination test and pot studies while the nanoparticle treatment protected the rice plants challenged with the C. lunata in pot studies. Further Phytochemical tests, Anti-oxidant, Anti-bacterial activity were performed. Characterization of the fungal isolate obtained as antagonist against C.lunata was completed by Morphology, LPCB and then Molecular sequencing.

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